

THE
RELATION OF
the Right Honourable the Lord
De-La-Warre, Lord Gouernour
and *Captaine Generall of the*
Colonie, planted in
VIRGINIA.



LONDON
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yard at the Signe of the Swan,
1611.



A
S H O R T R E-
lation made by the
Lord *De-La-Warre*, to the Lords
and others of the Counsell of *Virginea*,
touching his *unexpected returne home*, and af-
terwards deliuered to the generall Assembly
of the said Company, at a Court holden
the twenty five of June,
1611.

Published by authority of
the said Counsell.

My Lords, &c.

BEING now by accident returned
from my Charge at *Virginea*, con-
trary either to my owne desire, or
other

other mens expectations, who spare not to censure me, in point of duty, and to discourse and question the reason, though they apprehend not the true cause of my returne, I am forced, (out of a willingnesse to satisfie euery man) to deliuere vnto your Lordships, and the rest of this Assembly, briefly, (but truely) in what state I haue liued, euer since my arriuall to the *Colonie*; what hath beene the iust occasion of my sudden departure thence; and in what termes I haue left the same : The rather because I perceiue, that since my coming into England, such a coldnesse and irresolution is bred, in many of the *Aduenturers*, that some of them seeke to withdraw those painets, which they haue subscribed towards the Charge of the *Plantation*, and bywhich that *Action* must bee supported and maintained; making this my returne,
the

by the Lord De-La-Warre.

the colour of their needless backwardnes
and vniust protraction. Which, that you
may the better vnderstand, I must informe
your Lordships, that presently after my ar-
riual in *James Towne*, I was welcommed by
a hote and violent Ague, which held mee a
time, till by the aduice of my Physition,
Doctor *Laurence Bokun*, (by blood letting)
I was recovered, as in my first Letters by
Sir Thomas Gates I haue informed you.
That disease had not long left me, til (with-
in three weekes after I had gotten a little
strength) I began to be distempered with
other greeuous sicknesses, which succes-
sively & seuerally assailed me: for besides
a relapse into the former disease, which
with much more violence held me more
then a moneth, and brought me to great
weakenesse, the Flux surprised me, and kept

me

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me many daies; then the Crampe assaulted my weak body, with strong paines; & afterwards the Gout (with which I had heeretofore beeene sometime troubled) afflicted mee in such sort, that making my body through weakenesse vnable to stirre, or to vse any maner of exercise, drew vpon me the disease called the Scuruy; which though in others it be a sicknesse of slothfulnesse, yet was in me an effect of weaknessse, which neuer left me, till I was vpon the point to leauethe world.

These feuerall maladies and calamities, I am the more desirous to particularise vnto your Lordships (although they were too notorious to the whole *Colonię*) lest any man should misdeeme that vnder the general name and cōmon excuse of sicknes, I went about to cloke either sloth, or feare,

or

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or anie other base apprehension , vn-
worthy the high and Honourable charge,
which you had entrusted to my Fide-
litie.

In these extremities I resolued to con-
sult my friends , vvhho (finding Nature
spent in mee, and my body almost con-
sumed, my paines likewise daily encrea-
sing) gaue me aduise to preferre a hope-
full recouery , before an assured ruine ,
which must necessarily haue ensued, had
I liued, but twenty dayes longer, in *Vir-
ginia*: wanting at that instant, both food
and *Physicke*, fit to remedy such extraor-
dinary diseases, and restore that strength
so desperately decayed.

VVhereupon , after a long consulta-
tion held, I resolued by generall consent
and perswasion , to shippe my selfe for

B

Meuis,

A relation to the Councill of Virginia

Meuis, an Island in the VVest Indies, famous for vvholsome Bathes, there to try what help the Heauenly Prouidence would afford mee, by the benefit of the hot Bath : But G O D , who guideth all things, according to his good will and pleasure, so prouided, that after wee had sailed an hundred Leagues, wee met with Southerly windes which forced mee to change my purpose, (my body being altogether vnable to endure the tediousnesse of a long voyage) and so sterne my course for the VVestern Islands , which I no sooner recouered , then I found help for my health , and my sickenesse asswaged , by meanes of fresh diet , and especially of Orenges and Lemonds, an vndoubted remedy and medicine for that disease, which lastly , and so long, had afflicted

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afflicted mee : which easse as foone as I found , I resolued (although my body remained still feeble and weake , to returne backe to my charge in *Virginia* againe , but I was aduised not to hazard my selfe before I had perfectly recouered my strength , which by counsell I was perswaded to seeke in the naturall Ayre of my Countrey , and so I came for England . In which Accident , I doubt not but men of reason , and of iudgement will imagine , there would more danger and preuidice haue hapned by my death there , then I hope can doe by my returne

In the next place , I am to giue ac-compt in what estate I left the *Colony* for gouerniment in my absence . It may please your Lordships therefore to vnderstand ,

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that vpon my departure thence, I made choise of Captaine George Pearcie, (a Gentleman of honour and resolution, and of no small experience in that place, to remaine Deputie Gouernour , vntill the comming of the Marshall Sir *Thomas Dale*, whose Commission was likewise to be determined , vpon the arriuall of Sir *Thomas Gates*, according to the intent and order of your Lordships , and the Councill here.

The number of men I left there , were vpward of two hundred, the most in health, and prouided of at least tenne moneths victuals, in their store-house, (which is daily issued vnto them) besides other helps in the Countrey , late-ly found out by Captaine Argoll by tra-ding vvith pettie Kings in those parts ,
who

who for a small returne of a piece of Iron, Copper, &c. haue consented to trucke great quantities of Corne, and willingly imbrace the intercourse of Traffique, shewing vnto our people certaine signes of amitie and affection.

And for the better strengthening and securing of the *Collony*, in the time of my weaknesse there, I tooke order for the building of three feuerall Forts, two of which are seated neere *Poynt Comfort*, to which adioyneth a large Circuit of ground, open, and fit for Corne: the third Fort is at the *Falles*, vpon an I-land inuironed also with Corne ground. These are not all manned, for I wanted the commoditie of Boates, hauing but two, and one Bardge, in all the Country, which hath beene cause that our

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fishing hath beene (in some sort) hindered, for want of those prouisions, which easily will be remedied when vvee can gaine sufficient men to be employed about those businesles, which in *Virginia* I found not : but since meeting with Sir *Thomas Gates* at the Cowes neere *Portsmouth* (to whom I gaue a perticular ac-compt of all my proceedings, and of the present estate of the *Collony* as I left it) I vnderstood those wants are supplyed in his Fleet.

The Countrey is wonderfull fertile and very rich, and makes good whatsoeuer heretofore hath beene reported of it, the Cattell already there, are much encreased, and thriue exceedingly with the pasture of that Countrey: The Kine all this last VVinter, though the ground was

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by the Lord De la VVarre.

was couered most vvith Snow , and the season sharpe, liued without other feeding then the grasse they found, vvith which they prospered well , and many of them readie to fall with Calue : Milke being a great nourishment and refreshing to our people , seruing also (in occasion) as well for *Physicke* as for food, so that it is no way to be doubted, but when it shall please God that Sir *Thomas Dale*, and Sir *Thomas Gates*, shall arriue in *Virginia* with their extraordinary supply of one hundred Kine, and two hundred Swine, besides store of all manner of other prouisions for the sustenance and maintenance of the *Collony*, there vvill appeare that successe in the Action as shall giue no man cause of distrust that hath already aduentured, but encourage euery

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euerie good minde to further so worthy
a worke , as will redound both to the
Glory of GOD , to the Credit of our
Nation , and to the Comfort of all those
that haue beeene Instruments in the furthe-
ring of it.

The last discouery, during my conti-
nuall sicknesse , was by Captaine Argoll,
who hath found a trade with *Patamack*
(a King as great as *Powhatan*, vvhich still
remaines our enemie , though not able
to doe vs hurt.) This is in a goodly Ri-
uer called *Patomack*, vpon the borders
whereof there are growne the goodliest
Trees for Masts, that may be found else-
where in the VVorld : Hempe better
then English , growing wilde in aboun-
dance: Mines of Antimonie and Leade,

There is also found without our Bay

to

by the Lord De la VVarre.

to the Northward an excellent fishing Bancke for Codde, and Ling, as good as can be eaten, and of a kinde that will keepe a whole yeare, in Shippes hould, with little care; a tryall whereof I now haue brought ouer vwith mee. Other Islands there are vpon our Coasts, that doe promise rich merchandise, and vwill further exceedingly the establishing of the *Plantation*, by supply of many helpes, and vwill speedily afford a returne of many vvortheie Commodities.

I haue left much ground in part manured to receiue Corne, hauing caused it the last VVinter to be sowed for rootes, vwith vvhich our people vvere greatly releeued.

There are many Vines planted in

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diuers

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diuers places , and doe prosper vwell ,
there is no want of anything, if the action
can be vpheld with constancy and
resolution.

Lastly, concerning my selfe, and my
course , though the VVorld may ima-
gine that this Countrey and Climate,
will (by that vwhich I haue suffered be-
yond any other of that *Plantation*) ill a-
gree, vvith the state of my body , yet
I am so farre from shrinking or giuing
ouer this honourable enterprise , as that
I am vvilling and ready to lay all I am
worth vpon the aduenture of the A&ti-
on , rather then so Honourable a worke
should faile, and to returne vvith all the
conuenient expedition I may, beseeching
your Lordships , and the rest , not onely
to excuse my former wants , happened

by

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by the Lord De la VVarre.

by the Almighty hand : but to second
my resolutions vwith your friendly in-
deauours : that both the State may re-
ceiue Honour, your selues Profit, and
I future Comfort, by being employed
(though but as a weake Instrument) in
so great an Action.

And thus hauing plainly, truely,
and briefly, deliuered the cause of my
returne, vwith the state of our affayres,
as wee now stand, I hope euery vvor-
thy and indifferent hearer, will by com-
paring my present resolution of returne,
with the necessitie of my comming home,
rest satisfied with this true and short De-
claration.

Ff N f S.